

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017060
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:LWILLEMS:DKM
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
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-----260224Z 044087 /75-61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL CSCE, UR, US (KRIMSKY, GEORGE) (WREN,

CHRISTOPHER)

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SUBJ: DEMARCHE WITH SOVIET EMBASSY ABOUT US CORRESPONDENTS
REF: MOSCOW 1169

1. JANUARY 25 EUR/SOV DIRECTOR GARRISON CALLED IN SOVIET
EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR KAMENEV AND RAISED KRIMSKY CASE
AND ALSO WREN INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTEL. GARRISON SAID
BOTH EPISODES LOOK LIKE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO
PRESSURE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS TO CHANGE THEIR REPORTING
ABOUT THE USSR, CONDUCT WHICH IS NOT IN ACCORD WITH CSCE
UNDERTAKINGS TO FACILITATE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR
CORRESPONDENTS.

2. GARRISON SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
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AP, AND UNDERSTOOD AP DOES NOT PLAN TO WITHDRAW KRIMSKY;
IF THE SOVIETS WANT HIM TO LEAVE, THEY WILL APPARENTLY
HAVE TO EXPEL HIM. GARRISON NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN
NO EXPULSION OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST FROM THE USSR FOR
A NUMBER OF YEARS - NOT SINCE 1970 AS FAR AS WE CAN
DETERMINE FROM OUR FILES. GARRISON SAID HE HOPED SOVIET
AUTHORITIES WOULD GIVE VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT BEFORE

BEGINNING A CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING IN A DIRECTION NOT

HELPFUL TO EITHER SIDE.

3. KAMENEV REPLIED THAT SOVIET ORGANS HAVE PROOF THAT KRIMSKY VIOLATED SOVIET LAWS, AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THEREFORE CONSIDERS THAT HE SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED AP MOSCOW BUREAU CHIEF MASON AND US EMBASSY COUNSELOR BENSON. KAMENEV SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT GARRISON'S SUGGESTION THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO PUT PRESSURE ON KRIMSKY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT LIKE HIS REPORTING.

4. GARRISON SAID THAT WHILE NOT WISHING TO GET INTO DETAILS, HE UNDERSTOOD KRIMSKY HAD GIVEN SERIES D COUPONS ONLY TO HIS MAID, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED MOSCOW PRACTICE. KAMENEV SAID THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF KRIMSKY'S ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, AND MR. BENSON HAS THE OPTION OF ASKING FOR THE PROOF IF HE WISHES.

5. KAMENEV SAID HE WAS NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE WREN INCIDENT, BUT COMMENTED THAT EVERY CORRESPONDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO APPLY FOR INTERVIEWS AND EVERY ORGANIZATION CAN REFUSE. GARRISON OBSERVED THAT MFA WAS APPARENTLY TRYING TO STIGMATIZE WREN AND CUT HIM OFF FROM ACCESS TO SOURCES. IT WOULD BE HARD TO DO OBJECTIVE REPORTING FROM MOSCOW IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, GARRISON OBSERVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DEMARCHE, HARASSMENT, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LWILLEMS:DKM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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